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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/762,224	07/30/2001	David A. Sanders	7024-497PUR115	2859
26813	7590	04/07/2004	EXAMINER	
MUETING, RAASCH & GEBHARDT, P.A. P.O. BOX 581415 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55458			PARKIN, JEFFREY S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1648	

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/762,224	SANDERS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D.	1648	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 December 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-55 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 13-18, 30-32, 39, 44-52, 54 and 55 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12, 19-29, 33-38, 40-43 and 53 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02102003/05292001.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

Serial No.: 09/272,262
Applicants: Li, X., et al.

Serial No.: 09/762,224
Applicants: Sanders, D. A., et al.

Docket No.: 7024-497P
Filing Date: 07/30/01

Detailed Office Action

Status of the Claims

Applicants' election with traverse of Group I (claims 1-12, 19-29, 33-38, 40-43, and 53) in the communication filed 18 December, 2003, is acknowledged. The traversal is based upon the premise that examining all the inventions simultaneously would not constitute an undue burden on the examiner. The examiner does not concur with this assessment. The basis for the lack of unity finding was clearly set forth on page 2 of the last Office action. **The requirement is still deemed to be proper and is therefore made FINAL.** Claims 13-18, 30-32, 39, 44-52, 54, and 55 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.¹ Claims 1-12, 19-29, 33-38, 40-43, and 53 are currently under examination.

37 C.F.R. § 1.98

The information disclosure statements filed 29 May, 2001, and 10 February, 2003, have been placed in the application file and the information referred to therein has been considered.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-12, 19-29, 33-38, 40-43, and 53 rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Two separate requirements are set forth under this statute: (1) the claims must set forth the

¹ Applicants are advised that claim 54, which clearly depends from claim 52, should have been included in Group IV (claims 50, 52, and 54). Accordingly, this claim has been withdrawn as set forth *supra*.

subject matter that applicants regard as their invention; and (2) the claims must particularly point out and distinctly define the metes and bounds of the subject matter that will be protected by the patent grant.

Concerning claims 1-12, 19-29, and 53, the claims are vague and indefinite for failing to clearly set forth the salient characteristics of the nucleic acid construct. For instance, claim 1 simply recites a eukaryotic cell comprising a first, second, third, and fourth nucleotide sequence. However, the claims fail to sufficient structural and functional limitations to enable the skilled artisan to ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention. Are the four nucleotide sequences tandemly arranged on the same expression vector or are they present on different vectors? What is the precise structural relationships of these various sequences? Appropriate correction, as supported by the disclosure, is required.

Concerning claims 33-38 and 40-43, the salient characteristics of the pseudotyped retroviral particle should also be clearly set forth. It is also not readily manifest what constitutes a "desired protein" encoding sequence or a "desired ribonucleotide sequence". What features or properties of the protein or nucleic acid are "desired"? Appropriate correction, as supported by the disclosure, is required.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0908. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful,

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the examiner's supervisors, Laurie Scheiner or James Housel, can be reached at (571) 272-0910 or (571) 272-0902, respectively.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey S. Parkin, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1648

02 April, 2004